

FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

February 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416, San Francisco, California 94102

The video of the [Regular Meeting, 2.11.26](#) is now available.

President Collins called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Title	Name	
President	Paula Collins	Present
Vice President	Allan Low	Present
Commissioner	Stephen A. Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Present
Commissioner	Marcy Fraser	Excused
Chief of Department	Dean Crispen	Present
Deputy Chief – Administration	Sayumi Brannan	
Support Services	Michael Mullin	
Fire Marshal	Chad Law	
Division of Training	Marc Kasper	
ESER Project Manager	Garreth Miller	
Chief of Staff	Adrienne Sims	
Assistant Deputy Chief, EMS	Tony Molloy	
Assistant Chiefs		
Division 2	Ken Yee	
Staff		
Deputy Director of Finance	Mark Corso	

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

President Collins read the land acknowledgment.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may address the Commission for up to three minutes on any matter within the Commission’s jurisdiction that does not appear on the agenda. Speakers shall address their remarks to the Commission as a whole and not to individual Commissioners or Department personnel. Commissioners are not to enter into debate or discussion with a speaker. The lack of a response by the Commissioners or Department personnel does not necessarily constitute agreement with or support of statements made during public comment.

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *[Discussion and action]*

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Special Meeting on January 28, 2026.

Commissioner Morgan moved to approve the minutes from January 28, 2026, and Commissioner Nakajo Seconded. President Collins voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Low was absent from the meeting and abstained from voting. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

4. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [*Discussion*]

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT, DEAN CRISPEN

Report on current issues, activities, and events within the Department since the regular Fire Commission meeting January 14, 2026, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Crispin attended several events: the Mayor's State of the City address; the swearing in ceremony of SFPD Chief Derrick Lew; filming of a podcast on fires and void spaces; public safety leadership dinner; Mayor's Black History Month event; a meeting with Edward Kelly, General President of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF); the Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Celebration March; and held media events regarding the Superbowl. Chief Crispin thanked Fire Marshal Law and Captain Tracy O'Keefe for working with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to finalize the Design Review Manual. The Department held tabletop drills in preparation for the Superbowl. Chief Crispin thanked the Community Paramedicine (CP) Division, Fire Marshal Law, Chief Brown, and Lieutenant Marbury for their service during the Superbowl. Chief Crispin reported several notable incidents including a triple shooting with a fatality; a second alarm fire which Station 35 helped fight; and a fire allegedly due to a hoarding situation. Fire Marshal Law has formed a hoarding task force with other City agencies. The 137th Recruit Academy Class is in their third week with 50 students. The 138th Recruit Academy Class will begin on August 17. The 29th EMT Class and 15th Paramedic Class begin on March 30. Chief Crispin several General Orders (GO): GO 25 A-119, 2026 Drill Schedule; 26 A-01, Overdose Response Coordinator; 26 A-03, Rescue Captain Examinations; and 26 A-05, Major Incident Report. On February 23, the Fire Code will be presented to the Land Use Committee. Due to the teachers strike at the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), the Department is working with members to grant leave related to childcare issues. Chief Crispin's report is attached: [Chief's report](#).

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Crispin for his report, and asked about a coordinated operational plan between EMS and suppression. Chief Crispin responded that GO A-119 provides a daily drill schedule that now integrates drills between EMS and suppression. Commissioner Nakajo was pleased to learn about these drills. Commissioner Nakajo asked how many candidates would be in the 138th Recruit Academy Class and if the budget would affect the number of candidates chosen. Chief Crispin responded that approximately 50 candidates would be admitted to the 138th Recruit Academy Class. Depending on the number of retirements, the recruit class number can be adjusted. The Department is currently in contract negotiations with Local 798. 100 candidates were interviewed, and the budget allows for up for 54 people. Commissioner Nakajo inquired if members are retiring earlier than in past years. Chief Crispin responded that there will be approximately 60 retirements. Commissioner Nakajo inquired about complying with Proposition F, and the proposed advisory committee for the sprinkler ordinance. Chief Crispin responded that the Department must adhere to Proposition F's mandate in terms of members and stations. The Department complies with Proposition F, and is open to discussing a possible advisory committee with the Fire Commission and Board of Supervisors (BOS).

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF SAYUMI BRANNAN

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status and updates, Finance, Support Services, and Homeland Security.

Chief Brannan reported that Homeland Security successfully planned Superbowl 60 events in the City. The Department is working on a possible grant to fund FIFA expenses. Chief Brannan acknowledged Fire Marshal Chad Law for his work, and Lieutenant Clarence Hom's frontline hero award at a 49er game. Outreach, Recruitment, and Development (ORD) tabled at the Union Square Winter Walk. The Division of Training (DOT) hosted the written exam for the 138th Recruit Academy Class. DOT collaborated with CAL-Jac, and other fire departments at a recruitment event during Superbowl weekend. Chief Brannan played a video of this event highlighting former NFL players who are now firefighters. ORD plans to expand recruitment to other sports agencies, like women's soccer. The H3L1 EMT class and H3L2 Paramedic classes have begun and will graduate on June 26. The Department is working on a pre-tower for EMS members at the upcoming academy. In the Behavioral Health Unit (BHU), call volume increased from 300 in November 2025 to 450 calls in December 2025. Specialist Matthew Fluke has followed with calls related to workplace violence. Dr. Chang and Nurse Practitioner Phelps from the Office of Employee Health (OEH), conducted return to work clearances and end of probation exams. OEH released a training video raising awareness on mental health and substance use issues. The Roll Call Podcast featuring Dr. Chang and active/retired members discussed cancer prevention strategies. Captain Carter from the Investigative Services Bureau (ISB), completed background checks for the current H2 academy, and is working on background checks for the next H3L1/H3L2 classes. Captain Carter attended disaster operations training. Chief Brannan thanked Captain Balzarini for teaching the ICS 300 classes. Chief Mullin from Support Services completed 220 service calls, including a cracked sidewalk by Station 42 and a plumbing issue. The life safety ropes on all trucks, rescue squads and vehicles have been replaced. Chief Brannan's report is attached: [Chief Brannan's report](#).

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Brannan for her report. He enjoyed the recruitment video featuring former athletes, and was pleased that the Superbowl weekend was a success. Commissioner Morgan was pleased that the new driveway at Station 42 was fixed.

President Collins inquired if the plan for the World Cup would be like the Superbowl. Chief Brannan responded yes. The Department plans to meet with a transitional team that works with players in terms of recruitment and volunteer opportunities. President Collins hoped that the Department could reach out to the Golden State Valkyries. The Department has already reached out to the Valkyries.

There was no public comment.

5. FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET – FISCAL YEARS 2026-2027 AND 2028 [Discussion and action]

Presentation from Mark Corso, Deputy Director of Finance and Planning, on the Fire Department's operating budget for Commission review and discussion. Discussion and possible action to approve the Fire Department's Operating Budget for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028.

Deputy Director Mark Corso reported that there will be no major policy changes to the budget, and asked for Fire Commission approval. All City departments submit their

budgets on February 23 for the Mayor's review. The Mayor's office submits a balanced budget to the BOS on June 1. During this time, the Department will work with the Mayor's office to negotiate a budget. The Mayor's office instructed the Department to identify any fiscal savings which would reduce the overall City deficit of approximately \$939 million over the next two years. The City hopes to find \$100 million in savings from position reductions citywide. Overall discussions will involve evaluating efficiencies and contracts, and identifying possible savings in sharing services across City departments. Deputy Director Corso reported that the Department has to comply with staffing mandates for EMS and Community Paramedicine (CP). Frontline personnel is a major Department expense, so the Department is prioritizing frontline emergency response for Fire, EMS, and CP by proposing a continuation of the current hiring plan. The Department will submit a budget of approximately \$573 million. The increased budget accounts for increases in salary and benefits. The City will address the CPI increase for costs related to ongoing negotiations with firefighter unions. Fortunately, staffing levels are at a healthy level. The Department is preparing for a large number of retirements. The Bureau of Fire Prevention (BFP) took in revenue. Operationally, BFP will be working with IT and Open Gov on the new Permit Center. Thanks to the Mayor's office, the Department received a \$500 thousand to implement cancer screenings over the next fiscal year. The Department will continue working with the Mayor's office on the City-wide reduction for materials and supplies. This will be challenging, as approximately 90% of the budget is for personnel costs and supports stations and equipment. The Department will be relying on other funding sources such as the ESER Bond. The hiring freeze impacts the Department's small, 80 employee civilian workforce because civilian retirements are difficult to back fill. The Department is planning for different retirement levels and modeling various leave assumptions. Deputy Director Corso and the Department will continue negotiations with the Mayor's office until early June. The City's joint report on financial status will be released in late March, at which point there will be a revised estimate. The Department will also be working with the Capital Planning Committee and the BOS. The Department's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is up for negotiation. Deputy Director Corso will report on any fiscal impacts once negotiations are concluded. He commented that the Mayor's office is very supportive of public safety. Deputy Director Corso's reports are attached: [Commission Budget Book](#) and [Budget Approval](#).

President Collins asked for clarity on how the Fire Commission can best help with the budget process. Deputy Director Corso responded that approval of the proposed budget would best support the Department as they submit it to the Mayor's office.

Vice President Low asked for confirmation of the Department's \$297 million projected deficit in year one, and \$640 million in year two. Deputy Director Corso responded yes. Vice President Low asked Deputy Director Corso to explain the increase. Deputy Director Corso responded that the deficit increase assumes that the year one deficit would not be resolved and that expenditures will be more than anticipated revenues. Vice President Low inquired if the proposed budget covers a two-year period. Deputy Director Corso responded yes because it is a rolling budget process. The Big Beautiful Bill will have an impact on the budget process. Vice President Low inquired if there will be any anticipated payments or reserves for cost overruns. Deputy Director Corso responded that to date, the ESER Bond addresses these issues.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Deputy Director Corso for his report and commented that the Superbowl would have a positive financial impact on the City. Deputy Director Corso responded that he hoped it would boost future tourism.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Deputy Director Corso for his report. He appreciated learning about the rolling budget process. Commissioner Nakajo was concerned about the budget due to the Big Beautiful Bill, but supports the Department's proposed budget.

President Collins inquired if Deputy Director Corso would provide the Fire Commission an update on significant changes or developments in the budget. Deputy Director Corso responded yes. He will provide the formal budget document submitted to the Mayor's office.

Commissioner Nakajo inquired if the Department was fully dependent on the General Fund. Deputy Director Corso responded yes, but that there was also revenue from the California public safety tax, and EMS for services provided.

Vice President Low moved to approve the Fire Department's Operating Budget for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028. Commissioner Morgan Seconded. President Collins and Commissioner Nakajo voted in favor of the motion. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

6. PRESENTATION ON SFFD ESER BOND PROJECTS *[Discussion]*

Presentation from Assistant Deputy Chief Garreth Miller, ESER Project Manager, regarding SFFD ESER Bond Projects.

Chief Miller reported that the main project under the ESER Bond was the Division of Training facility. Construction will begin on April 27, with substantial completion by December 2028. The MOU with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has been completed, and takes effect on February 23. The \$145 million construction budget is under the \$152 million limit. Additional ESER Bond funds from the 2020 bond will be assigned to the Fire Station 7 replacement project, which begins in 2028. 2014 ESER Bond projects: window, boiler, and generator replacements, and network modernization are close to completion. Chief Miller thanked the Department's IT group and the Department of Technology for their work on the network modernization project. The 2026 ESER Bond will be \$535 million distributed City-wide. The Department's proposed projects are not listed on the bond because the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental assessment has not been completed. There are no future bonds planned, but the Department hopes this will change. Chief Miller's report is attached: [SFFD ESER Update Fire Commission](#).

Vice President Low inquired when the CEQA process can start. Chief Miller responded that Station 7 has already begun planning. Over the next three to four months, the Department is working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Planning Department to identify the required CEQA evaluation level appropriate for this project. The CEQA process for other stations will begin after Station 7. Vice President Low inquired if DPW could expedite the process. Chief Miller responded that it would be up to DPW. Given the hiring freeze, projects may impact the number of projects DPW takes on. The Department has received approval for an expedited evaluation, but there is competition with other City projects.

President Collins commented that with two projects in close proximity and similar environmental conditions, both evaluations could possibly be submitted simultaneously. Chief Miller responded that he would bring that up to DPW.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Miller for his report and inquired if these projects would fall under the City's Project Labor Agreement (PLA). Chief Miller responded that DPW handles all contracts, and that he could not address specific contracting issues.

Commissioner Nakajo inquired about the emergency firefighter water system (EFWS). Chief Miller responded that Captain McGuigan's presentation would address EFWS.

Chief Crispen commented that discussions with the Mayor's office are underway regarding an MOU with DPW. This would address some of the challenges in completing projects in a timely manner. Chief Crispen would be open to Fire Commission's feedback on this process. Vice President Low expressed interest in this discussion.

President Collins is looking forward to an update on the 2026 ESER Bond.

There was no public comment.

7. PRESENTATION ON WATER SUPPLY *[Discussion]*

Presentation from Captain James McGuigan, regarding water supply.

Captain McGuigan reported that as the Department liaison to the PUC, he coordinates quarterly and annual trainings with PUC. The Department hosts trainings in even calendar years, while PUC hosts trainings in the odd calendar years. The PUC has a dedicated team that maintains and supports the Department's secondary and tertiary water supply systems, including EFWS. There are several layers of fire protection. Standard pressure firefighting systems are small hydrants seen on each block. The EFWS includes 135 miles of resilient pipe, 1500 high pressure hydrants, more than 180 cisterns, and Fireboat manifolds. Captain McGuigan showed a map of the water system, and future plans to augment water supply. There are future plans to build a Potable Emergency Firefighter Water System that is earthquake resistant and would provide a high-pressure firefighting system when needed. Lake Merced is a possible water source. Ocean Beach would be more difficult to use due to environmental protections and construction challenges such as permitting and cost. The Department will be working with PUC on this project. Captain McGuigan's report is attached: [Water Supply Presentation](#).

Vice President Low inquired if the current planned construction projects would impact existing water service. Captain McGuigan responded no. The initial phase of the new build out would not impact current water supplies.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Captain McGuigan for his report. He inquired about the Department's collaboration with PUC. Chief Crispen responded that PUC's infrastructure has the bandwidth for these projects. Commissioner Nakajo inquired if Treasure Island had a standalone water supply. Captain McGuigan responded that Treasure Island currently has two tanks with a 1.5-million-gallon capacity.

President Collins inquired if PUC is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the water system, and what happens during drought conditions. Captain McGuigan responded that PUC handles all maintenance and works with the Department to ensure the system fulfills the Department's needs. Saltwater pumps, the Sunset Reservoir, Crystal Springs, and Hetch Hetchy Reservoir are alternative water sources in drought conditions.

Commissioner Morgan inquired if construction has begun and if infrastructure would remain the same. Captain McGuigan responded that construction on a transmission line has begun at 19th Avenue and Vicente Street. Pipe diameter will vary depending on pipe location.

Chief Crispen responded that thanks to previous ESER Bonds, the Department has installed 30 cisterns mainly in the Sunset and Richmond districts and purchased high pressure hoses.

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.